

CITY OF MIDDLETOWN
Recreation & Community Services Department
100 Riverview Center
Suite 140
Middletown, Connecticut 06457

MINUTES

Recreation & Community Services Commission Meeting of April 10, 2014
Held at the Recreation Office at 100 Riverview Center, Suite 140

Present: David Bauer, Ed Dypa, Sheila Jones, Phil Pessina, William Wasch, Anthony Jaskot, Rick Romano, Gerry Winzer

Absent: Gordan Adams, Mary Bartolotta, Tom Hutton,

Staff
& Students: Deb Stanley, Dhruv Kekare

Public: Steve Ladd

Call: Meeting was called to order at 6:02 pm.

Public
Hearing:

Minutes: Minutes from approved March 13, 2014. **Commissioner Bauer moved to accept minutes, Commissioner Wasch seconded. Commissioners Jaskot, Winzer, and Romano abstained.**

Department
Report: Deb Stanley stated that department reports were emailed to commissioners, and copies are available on table.

Easter egg hunt will be held a WWMS on Saturday, April 13, 2014. Dunkin Donuts donated 35 dozen doughnuts. Kiwanis and Northstar each donated apx \$500 for the egg hunt.

Flag football and spring basketball begin this week.

April vacation camp will be held this week. Field trips to Mystic Aquarium and Destinta Theatre are planned for the week. Fifty children are registered for this vacation camp.

Two nature walks are scheduled for April. The Mount Higby walk is done in conjunction with the Water Dept. A member of the water department will be there to escort hikers. All ages can participate. The other walk is scheduled for Earth Day.

Five children will be going to the Governor's mansion from the Unified Theatre group to perform and receive an award.

An astronomy program was held at the Senior Center. This program was sponsored by Wesleyan. Thirty people attended. There is also a book discussion coming up. Additionally there is going to be a discussion on Elder law presented by Dizalo, Pickett & Allen.

Department is working on two grants – one grant is for a new passenger bus and the other is an elderly matching grant for transportation.

Commissioner Bauer has concerns with fields already being overbooked. He would like to see some type of schedule to identify issues. Deb Stanley said more and more groups are using fields. Stanley states that Parks Dept. registers fields for usage. Chairman Pessina wants Commissioner Bauer to speak with Bill Russo about field usage concerns. He wants to make sure that Recreation activities do not get bumped. Chairman Pessina requests that he see schedule of field usage. Commissioner Jaskot states that all sports teams work well together when scheduling. Commissioner Romano states that the heavy rains have prevented use on all fields. Some fields are being played but all are not ready yet.

Correspondence: none

Old Business:

- Commission calendar dates are fine
- Joe Samolis is the new chairman of building committee for Eckersley- Hall. Electrical wiring is in. IT Dept. is working and getting ready for security systems. Chairman Pessina states that the property looks great. Transition is impressive. Probably looking at October 2014 for grand opening. Project moving ahead. Not only for seniors but for community space. Moving along well.
- Hiring of Manager for Senior – appears that director will be hired first. Director will then have some say in hiring of manager of senior position. Samolis knows that not only do they want a senior manager with knowledge of Senior Services but also in experienced in marketing. Senior/Community Center will be used for outside groups in hopes that income is generated.
- Senior transition – it appears that there will be sufficient office space and storage. Interviews for director have not started yet. Commissioner Bauer would like to see both the director and senior manager job description mailed to all commissioners.

New business:

- Commissioner Jones states that she would like to see the remaining \$4K youth grant money go to individual children to help defray the cost participating on a team. Commissioner Romano states that Middletown Soccer uses quite a bit of their youth grant funds to give children who need financial assistance. He states that if people can't pay they do not get turned away. Chairman Pessina wants to take a look at the application process. How many kids are under privileged on their team and are they using the youth grant money to pay for underprivileged first. Children should not be turned away if City is paying. Problem is trying to put programs into place, no solid procedures in place. The way youth grant money is given out needs to be revisited. Pessina wants application sent out to commission for viewing. Commissioner Bauer suggests that email be sent out for FY 2015 Youth Grant. Commissioner Bauer suggests looking at the format of citizen's action. Commissioner Jaskot reminds the commission that people are volunteers. Commissioner Bauer states that MCA gives great grants. If you bring something new to the table you might get a little more funding. Commissioner Jones states that \$4K will be lost if not used. Pessina-suggests wants little league get \$2k keep the rest for students that come in. Commissioner Winzer motions that 2K given to little League and remaining \$2K be split between original recipients of youth grant. Winzer reminds commission about ice skating child who used money for entire family for event. Chairman Pessina asks Winzer if he wants to modify motion for \$2K for Little League, keep \$2k in abeyance for needy children, and remaining balance will go to original recipients (excluding Little League) after June meeting. Winzer does not want to modify his motion, no one seconds motion. **Commissioner Jones motions to give 2k to Little League save the other \$2K for needy children and at end of June if no one approaches Commission that it is given to the original recipients. All in favor. Bauer abstains.** Bauer reminds that June meeting is after council meeting. Stanley questions that if someone else applies now, they are technically applying after little league. Stanley also reminds that the money is for youth sports grants, not adults.
- Bauer moves to reopens public session. No one seconds. Chairman Pessina informs Steve Ladd that commission has decided that \$2K will go to little league and \$2K will be kept in abeyance for athletes that may come in and need money. If no one needs money than it will go to the original youth grant recipients who filed by the Aug 31st filing date. Ladd asks that if no one asks for money that the remaining \$2K go to little league. Chairman Pessina says they will decide that at June meeting. Pessina informs Ladd that all meetings now begin at 6:00pm
- Chairman Pessina would like commission and staff to put together a survey for city. Wants to know what the public would like to see for programs, possible areas of growth. Stanley states that rec track has some capabilities of generating surveys. Pessina would like survey to go out in the fall. Bauer suggest survey go out as an insert in existing mailings. Pessina would also like it to go to high school to see how students feel. Commission student thinks survey is a good idea.

Miscellaneous: Commissioner Bauer wants commission informed of any Senior Center transitions (bus schedule, moving dates, etc.)

Motion: **Commissioner Romano motions to adjourn Commissioner Jones seconds the motion. All in favor. Meeting adjourned at 7:21 p.m.**